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Hitting the Nordic trails

Rick Whitteker highlights local trails in this week's Naturally Yours on page 2.

Star Wars and recycling?

They have more in common than you think. Read more on page 5.

Spotlight on André Lapine

Learn about the iconic artist featured at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery on page 10.

Haliburton - Kawartha Lakes - Brock MPP Laurie Scott cuts the ribbon as Haliburton - Kawartha Lakes - Brock MP Jamie Schmale, left, and Deputy Mayor of Dysart Walt McKechnie, right, hold both sides at the grand opening of the outdoor skating rink in Harcourt on Sunday, Feb. 5. The event featured skating with members of the Haliburton County Huskies, kids skating and hockey skills, and s'mores. See more photos on page 4. /Submitted by the office of MP Jamie Schmale

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Naturally Yours

Feed your body and your soul

RICK WHITTEKER
Special to *County Life*

A blissful day on the trails. /Photo by Thom Lambert

No one expects to be nearly run over by a deer while skiing.

While enjoying the peacefulness of a morning ski, I caught movement out of the corner of my eye. When I turned my head, what I saw stopped me in my tracks! An adult deer was vigorously bounding through the deep snow with a wolf in hot pursuit. Less than five meters away, the deer made a sharp turn across the trail right in front of me. The wolf hit the brakes, both front legs locked out straight. Whoosh! The wolf quickly pivoted and ran off. All this happened over the span of about five seconds: a front row seat to a predator/prey drama.

Not all my cross-country ski days give me this kind of adrenaline rush. More commonly, my ski days include a combination of exhilaration, relaxation and fatigue wrapped up into a nice one-hour package of winter joy. The joy flows from staying warm on a cold winters' day through physical effort: one of the most gratifying feelings I know.

Learning to Nordic ski is different for everyone. Some pick up the rhythm of kicking and gliding easily and off they go, cruising along with just a few pointers to help improve their technique. Experience with downhill skiing often helps.

Others discover that cross country skiing is a difficult to learn, finding it unsettling just to stand on the skis. Forward momentum is achieved with a staccato-like dependence on their ski poles, using them like crutches. Falling and untangling occupy most of the first hour of their lesson. If this rings true for you, I get it, it takes time and patience to get past these early challenges, however, I encourage you to persevere. It is worth it!

In Haliburton County, there are many first-rate locations to enjoy Nordic skiing for all levels of skill. You can ski wherever there is an open trail, but, for all beginners, a groomed trail is the best surface to learn on. The following list of groomed trails have a fee to ski. This fee offsets the cost of the equipment and fuel needed to groom, trail insurance, signage, and other costs associated with managing groomed ski trails.

The following three trail systems are managed by the Haliburton Highlands Nordic Trail Association (HHNTA), a great organization run by volunteers dedicated to promoting Nordic skiing in Haliburton County. All trails pro vide good directional signs and short-cut options.

Glebe Park: 13.5 kilometres of skate and classic groomed trails. Glebe also has a 1.5 kilometre lit loop: a novel way to enjoy a winter evening. This trail system includes a large, flat area to practice technique. Beyond the flats the trails can be challenging and technical. Just outside Haliburton at the end of Museum Road off Highway 118.

Moosewoods: 12.5 kilometres of skate and classic. Beginner to intermediate. Wonderful, rolling terrain. Located on County Road 14 on the way to Eagle Lake.

Twin Lakes: 5.5 kilometres of skate and classic. Beginner to intermediate. You can ski with your dog here. It is on Twelve Mile Lake Road off Highway 35 between Minden and Carnarvon.

The HHNSA also runs the popular Jackrabbit/Track Attack lessons, a wonderful community ski program for kids and youth run exclusively by volunteers. Radiant energy envelopes Saturday afternoons at Glebe Park as over 70 kids,

see page 3

County Life

The following inserts are being distributed with County Life this week:

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Naturally Yours

from page 2

many dedicated parents and volunteer coaches gather for a lesson geared to the age and skill level of the young skiers.

Other trail systems include:

The Frost Centre Trails: 22 kilometres of classic trails only. Genuine wilderness feel to these trails. South of Dorset across the highway from The Frost Centre on Highway 35.

Killara Station: 12.5 kilometres of multiuse trails. This trail, on private property, allows skijoring. On Gelert Road near Lochlin.

Silent Lake Provincial Park: 34 kilometres of classic trails only. Off Highway 28 in south-east Haliburton County.

Camp Wanakita: 24 kilometers of classic trails only. HHNTA ski pass accepted. Check in with the camp office before skiing. At the end of Koshlong Lake Road off Gelert Road at Donald.

It is always best to check on trail conditions before visiting any of the trail destinations above.

This tallies up to over 100 kilometres of groomed trails in the county. Gear can be rented at Algonquin Outfitters in Haliburton and at the Haliburton Water Trails office at the Frost Centre. Lessons are available with Yours Outdoors, through the Ski Like a Canadian program (full disclosure, I work for YO). Used gear can often be found at thrift stores and sometimes on the Ski Haliburton Nordic Facebook page. New gear is sold at Algonquin Outfitters and Delancey Sports in Haliburton.

A dedicated team of volunteer groomers keep the trails in great shape. /RICK WHITTEKER Special to *County Life*

Although winter may become an "endangered species," many of these trails are maintained in the off season. Rough sections are flattened out and wet spots are repaired so that, with just a little snow, the trails can be opened.

Hopefully, you will not be run over by a deer on the trail, but you can still experience the exhilaration of self-propelled winter travel on well-maintained trails. Start off slow, bring a friend and a thermos of hot drinks. Move through nature at your own pace and enjoy the invigorating sensation of cold, fresh air filling your lungs, feeding your body and your soul.

Writing on the Senior Side

We are active spectators

GAIL STELTER
Special to *County Life*

We strive, on the senior side, to live authentically. We want to be involved and active. We want to be participants. But there is a mother side to us. We are also spectators. From a young age, we have come to love our special spectators' moments.

I fit in. I fit in the curl of my mother's legs with my head on her. I fit in my circle of spectators. "Come on you Torontonians!" My dad is up and alert, (another word for sober), after his afternoon spent drinking with his pals at the Humber House. His weekly cheer marks the beginning of the festivities. The gas station man has just finished his sales pitch and reminds us that he is "your Imperial Esso Dealer."

It's Hockey Night in Canada, and it is midway through the first period when all eyes are on the score. What is the score? Will the Leafs be ahead? Which one of the original six are they playing tonight? I am ready and excited for the game and my weekly treat. Yes, a treat, just this one night each week. It is a bottle of pop and a chocolate bar. I want to eat it now, but my brother has not had his yet. He makes me suffer waiting. Oh sure, I could go ahead and eat it, but then I will be done and have to watch him eat his. He knows I hate that. He will tease me. I am getting sleepy now, and mom wants to know if I want to go to bed. There is the quick response of children everywhere, "No!" I think that maybe I will last long enough to watch *My Pet Juliette*. I usually don't. We cheer, and we sit on the edge of our seats as goals and close calls go both ways. Here comes the Big M, (Frank Mahovlich) flying down the left wing. Foster Hewitt yells, "He shoots! He scores!" Davey Keon is one of our favourites. Did you know that my dad knows him? He is a good friend. He goes to the Humber House every day after work. This is huge! My dad knows a real Toronto Maple Leaf. Did you see Keon score that goal with only 10 seconds left in the game?

Several years later, I finally realized that the Davey Keon my dad knew was not the real Davey Keon. I learned that my dad was famous, or infamous, for his nicknames. His Humber House friend did have the first name of Dave and did look a little like Keon. Hence, the nickname. It was exciting to think of him as a family friend; those Saturday nights are such wonderful childhood memories. We were hockey spectators!

The bell rings. It's Friday afternoon, and we all want to get out, to get out of the school. My usual home time is, well let's just say, late. I am the front porch principal where staff gather to share, discuss and commiserate on many facets of being teachers. I stay late to be there for them, to get the paperwork up to date, and to watch all the school basketball and volleyball games. But it is Friday, and I am ready. I have my homework packed and all my weekend to-do lists. Soon, Peter will be here and we will be off. We should make it to Queens in Kingston in time for tip-off. We are parents, and that is what parents do. There is such love and joy in just watching! Have you been a spectator of your children? Have you spent your summer at weekend baseball tournaments and attended assorted games for every child every night of the week? Have you sat in cold arenas and shouted, "Like you can." Have you shouted for joy the first time they get up on the wakeboard?

"Who knew she could sing and act like that?" My granddaughter was in the Hal High Grade 11 and 12 drama class play. Wow, what a thrill for us! Have you ever attended the Highlands Summer Festival, the Shaw Festival or the Stratford Festival? What are your spectator happenings?

Throughout our lives, we have been wonderful spectators and now on the senior side, we need to recall those moments and find new ways to be spectators. We don't always need to be full-out physically active. We don't always need to be over-the-top active participants in volunteer and community events. We can also find those relaxing and special times to just be spectators. I know you are thinking that all the spectator moments I have described inherently include active participation, if not so much by our bodies then definitely by our minds. This is true. Spectator pursuits engage our minds and our emotions. So, I have decided to create a new category. I will call it Active Spectators. How's that for an oxymoron? We want to be Active Spectators! Active spectator pursuits assist us to think and act positively. Did you know that seniors are better at regulating their emotions than younger people? We place more value on emotionally meaningful goals. We place more value on relationships and that never-ending strive for "quality of life." We are not naturally grumpy old men and women. We don't want to focus on the negative. We have lived too long, and we know life is too short. So, let's embrace being active spectators while we live on the senior side. Let's bump it up and do more active spectating! If you are like me, you love to clap your hands and tap your toes to live music. Let's get out to the local events and do just that. Let's find out what's happening at the "open mic" and who is appearing at the local pups and, in the summer months, in the local parks and outdoor venues.

Perhaps you are thinking that you live alone or spend a lot of time alone, making it seem difficult to get out and be an active spectator. Perhaps you just find it difficult, in general, to bump up your favourite spectator endeavours? You can do it! Reach out to your friends and neighbours. I find that people will meet you more than halfway if they can and if they know you need them. If that doesn't work, reach out to a local service club or organization. Helping others is what they do. They serve, and it truly makes them happy to do so. We are in senior hood together. You can choose to find the spectator moments and times that work for you. One of my "mom sayings" to all my children was and still is, "You make your choices." Yes, of course, there are life happenings, and probably more of them in our senior years, that are beyond our control but we still find ourselves where we are today because of the choices we have made along life's path. Even when everything seems beyond our control, we still make a choice on how to handle "it". Hopefully, we choose to go forward. Make good choices. Find a new endeavour or revisit an old one that will keep you an active spectator! I hope to see you at some of those active spectator happenings.

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Community Events

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Haliburton County Historical Society event
When: Thursday, Feb. 16 @ 1:30 p.m.
Where at the Haliburton Museum
What: Meet guest speaker Tony Keene of the Monarchist League of Canada. Hear his realistic views on the future of the constitutional monarchy in Canada. Light refreshments will be served.

Haliburton Highlands Writer's and Editor's Network
When: HHWEN regular meeting the third Thursday of every month. Starting Dec. 15 from 1 to 3 p.m.
Where: Minden Library, Rotary Room,
176 Bobcaygeon Rd., Minden.
Gather and meet members, read stories, general news.
Contact Kay Millard, Secretary HHWEN, 705-286-6635

TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly
When: Monday mornings 9:30 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion Branch 129, upper level
Admission: Yearly membership of $59
A non-profit/commercial network of weight-loss support groups, offers programs for healthy living and weight management.

Hiking the County
Trail leader and sweep, Carolyn and Glynn, of the Teddy Bear Picnic for the 2023 Hike Haliburton Festival along the Moore Falls Trail on Saturday, Feb. 4. This year marked the 20th anniversary for the festival. /Submitted by Shelley Bourdeau

Recycling … this is the way

JOHN WATSON

Special to *County Life*

The plot of Star Wars is dependent on waste management, but our own planet also has a problem with waste in space. / Submitted

Bluemilk. Beskar. Darksaber.

If these things mean anything to you, chances are you're ready to celebrate the start of the third season of *The Mandalorian* on streaming service, Disney+.

Some of us watch for the nostalgic joy of seeing the *Star Wars* universe grow and expand, others watch for the captivating, masked performance of Pedro Pascal, while others are there exclusively for Baby Yoda (Grogu, don't eat those eggs).

One of the things that has always struck me about the *Star Wars* universe is how much of the plot is dependent on waste management – on reuse and recycling.

In the original *Star Wars* (now known as *A New Hope*), Luke, Leia, Han, and Chewie escape the prison block by falling into a large garbage compactor. And then in *The Empire Strike Backs*, the Millennium Falcon escaped capture by hiding among garbage jettisoned from a star destroyer. Why was the Empire making so much waste? At the end of the original trilogy, the Ewoks of *The Return of the Jedi* reuse stormtrooper helmets as percussive drums for their epic dance party.

In the sequel trilogy's *The Force Awakens*, stormtrooper-turned-resistance fighter Finn explained to Han that he used to work in sanitation on Starkiller Base. While this is played for laughs, it may mean Finn's picked up garbage and recycling at some point, suggesting the First Order was concerned about its growing waste management problem (which is bound to happen when you turn a whole planet into a weaponized base, I guess).

Throughout the series – *The Phantom Menace*,*A New Hope*,*The Mandalorian*, *The Book of Bobba Fett* – there's even a race of recyclers, the Jawas, who roam the world in their sandcr awler looking for materials to reuse and recycle.

Closer to home however, our own planet has a problem with waste in space.

Four astronauts typically generate up to 2,500 kg of waste per year. On the International Space Station, waste is sent back to Earth using an unmanned ship or container, where it burns up in the atmosphere. And in 2008, an astronaut on a spacewalk lost (littered?) a $100,000 tool bag, that became space debris until it burned up in the earth's atmosphere in 2009.

In Earth's orbit, it is estimated there are 36,000 pieces of space debris larger than 10 centimetres, one million pieces of debris larger than one centimetre, and 130 million pieces of space debris about one millimetre and larger. The smallest sized space debris can be items such as paint flakes, while the larger pieces include spent rocket stages and satellites no longer in use.

The oldest piece of human-made space junk is the Vanguard 1. The US launched it in 1958. Communication with this satellite was lost in 1964, but it's still up there. In fact, it's estimated it will remain in Earth's orbit for another 200-plus years!

The University of Texas at Austin has an online tool, Astria Graph, that shows active and inactive satellites, rocket bodies, and debris. Check out astria.tacc.utexas.edu/AstriaGraph/.

In 2021, Russia fired a missile at an old satellite, which resulted in additional space debris and astronauts onboard the International Space Station having to take shelter in their docked spaceship capsules as a safety precaution.

So, blowing up space junk isn't necessarily the answer to this growing problem. Instead, various space agencies are looking at ways to retrieve satellites and other space debris and return them safely to earth for recycling. Just think of all the electronics and metals that are orbiting the planet!

While *Star Wars* is set "a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away," in the here and now of planet Earth, will we soon see Leias and Lukes, Reys and Finns, taking to the stars to pick up the recycling?

Recycling … this is the way.

John Watson is the Environmental Manager for the Municipality of Dysart et al.

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Send your letters to the editor to vivian@haliburtonpress.com. Letters must be signed and include a phone number.

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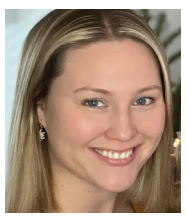
Happy to be home

AS A CHILD, my family and I would drive up Highway 117 late on a Friday night, headed to my Grandma's house in Dorset. Here we would stay for the weekend, at her homestead that her husband – the late Marvin MacLennan – built back in the 1930s. When Highway 117 would end, we would go straight across Highway 35 onto MacLennan Drive. I would think to myself excitedly, "we're here!"



KASSIE BRADLEY
Special to County Life

On this road, the MacLennan Clan would gather: my aunts, uncles and cousins. I can picture my Grandma's driveway like a photograph in my mind. I can hear the snow crunch on the tires in the winter as we slowly made our way down the drive. I can see the headlights bouncing off the snowy trees, casting a brief glimpse of the still, quiet, forest that brought feelings of both fear and wonder.

Then, Jennie MacLennan's house would come into view, with warm light beaming out the windows, the chimney billowing smoke, and my Grandma standing in the window welcoming us. This was my home.

Minden … I can clearly remember a very arrogant 15-year-old me, stating to my family, "I will never live here when I'm older, there's not enough to do!" Yet, both my family cottage and extended family constantly brought me back to this place.

My summers were spent working at the Minden Foodland, and in my spare time, you would find me at sunrise, rowing my single shell across Gull Lake. When I went away to university, my family decided to permanently relocate to the cottage. I found myself homesick for Minden while I was away at school. I watched my younger sisters grow up and flourish in this community, first at Archie Stouffer and later Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. This is when I truly saw what Haliburton County had to offer.

After I completed Chiropractic College in Toronto in 2016, a job called to me from the heart of Haliburton. I can still recall leaving my Toronto apartment for the last time, wondering if I had made the right decision. As I drove farther and farther north, I started to see the familiar landscape that made my heart feel at ease.

The white pine trees darkened against the twilight sky, the large rock faces encompassing the highway, and the lakes, quiet and serene; a beauty that a younger me took for granted. I rolled down my window and listened to the night sounds, and felt the same wonder and joy I did as a child. I excitedly welcomed a new chapter in my life, and knew this was where I was supposed to be.

My name is Kassie Bradley, and I am thrilled to be a contributing writer with the *Minden Times, Echo,* and *County Life*. Some of you may know me as Dr. Kassie Wright the Chiropractor. With my husband Dr. Jason Bradley, I own Haliburton County Chiropractic and Rehabilitation here in Minden, ON.

All too frequently, I meet individuals who are suffering from ongoing pain and are left unsure of where to seek help. This column is a way for me to give back to a community that has welcomed and supported my family and business. My intention is to provide information regarding common injuries I see in my clinic and simple tips and tricks to help you feel better.

I want to shed light on activities and programs being offered locally that will allow our community to stay active. And lastly, I want to help bridge the gap by answering any questions you may have, and truly find out what your needs are in this community so I can better help it grow and thrive.

Thank you for reading. I'm happy to be home.

Kassie Bradley is a chiropractor, mother, and a proud Mindenite. She will be contributing regular articles to help people manage their aches and pains from home, and to answer questions about how to make your body happy and healthy.

Top 10 excuses for the Chinese balloon

The recent Chinese balloon scare over Canada and the US has caused quite a stir in the news, what with all the international implications and military action. Hopefully, it was all one big misunderstanding. With that in mind, here are 10 plausible explanations that the Chinese government might offer to turn down the temperature a bit.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

1. In hindsight, that balloon was a lot to ask a child to hold onto.
2. Actually, it was a pavilion tent top until all the country's leaders got under it and filled it with hot air.
3. Nothing suspicious at all. World's biggest kitchen garbage bag just got caught in the wind.
4. We were just testing NORAD's state-of-the-art balloon defense system.
5. Just trying to make spying more eco-friendly.
6. We were trying to turn it into a balloon elephant when it got away.
7. We rubbed in on Xi Jinping's head but we couldn't get enough static for it to hold.
8. At first, we wanted to prank North America with a giant water balloon but someone let go of it when we turned on the tap.
9. Thought with all the gender reveal balloons let go in the US every day, no one would notice.
10. Trying to bolster sales in the telescope industry.

Strangers

Flurry of words, swirling through Air,
Wind hurling the pair of strangers, fragile as feathers, missing their wings, along the barren shore.
Snowflakes tumbling down, from a molting Sky, landing on the Lake, sealed in its crypt of ice,
the strangers, sharing secrets, through the gauze of Snow,
bandaging each other's wounds with their words, the way only strangers know, sometimes,
walking and talking like old friends, listening to the other, vent and lament and question and confess,
the answers, out there, somewhere, whirling in the Snow, or maybe buried, deep in the vault of their souls,
the strangers, pausing, to pick up sticks, poking through Snow,
fiddling with the broken bits, admiring the carvings in the sticks, like hieroglyphics,
passing the sticks back and forth, in silence, the pauses between words, sealing the fleeting bond between them,
as they plod through Snow towards the edge of the Lake, talking and listening as if their lives depended on it,
of heartbreak and doubt, of tarnished trust, and polished truths, that gleamed so bright they averted their eyes,
missing the layers of lies, peeling the veneer.
Clumps of Snow, smudging Air, as the pair of strangers gaze out at the blankness of Lake and Sky,
the boundary, blurred, as Wind carries their words, scattering them where no one will hear,
only Snow and boulders and trees, fringing the shore,
the keepers of secrets, buried deep as their roots, resting beneath the ground.
The strangers turn around to walk back in the direction from which they came, dusk cloaking Air,
brightening the snowflakes floating down from Sky, both of them, pausing, to glance back at the tundra of Lake,
the silence between words, cradling their own private thoughts, before they begin walking again,
purged of their words, the quiet between them, natural as if they were family or friends,
both, knowing, that they will never speak this way again, maybe a holler from a distance, or a passing wave,
the words shared between them, real and fragile and brave,
their secrets and fears streaming into each other's ears,
trickling into the vault of their souls, sealed deeper than the Lake, in its crypt of ice.
Feathers of Snow, floating through Air, as Sky deepens above them,
the strangers both peering up at the sudden gust of Wind, blowing a Snow ghost from the crook of a tree,
whooshing through Air like albatross wings, before it disappears, before the pair part,
each walking in the direction from which they came.

Sylvie Kalenda

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Legion Events

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Mondays: Bridge every Monday at 1 p.m. Schofield Room.
Tuesdays: League darts starting at 7 p.m. Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30 to 9 p.m. (Sept to June)
Wednesdays:
Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall.
Bingo doors open at 6 p.m.
Bingo starts at 7 p.m. $500 Jackpot
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, starting at 7 p.m. All members urged to attend.
Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Meat draw has five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $2 per draw. Ed Pickard, MC.
Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards.
Saturdays: 50/50 Draw 4 p.m. draw – tickets are $1 each available in the Clubroom.
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for more information call the Legion today at 705-457-2571, email rcll129@outlook.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129 ... everyone is welcome!
Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m. and Sat. 3 to 6 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Every other Friday Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.

Wilberforce

Feb. 16: 1 to 6 p.m.
Feb. 17: 2 to 9 p.m. Diners Club 12 p.m. Contact Denise Butler 705-448-8865 to book and $15/person. Pool 2 p.m. Fish & chips, chicken fingers & fries 5 to 8 p.m.
Feb. 18: 2 to 6 p.m. Meat draw 3 p.m.
Feb. 19-21: Closed
Feb. 22: Open 2 to 6 p.m. Darts 2 p.m.

Everyone welcome!
Feb 25 - Ken MacFarland Ice fishing derby

If you are planning a function for social or other event providing our guidelines/ conditions are met, please feel free to contact us at 705-448-2221.

Friday dinners are in jeopardy due to lack of volunteers. Please reach out ASAP if you want to help. Young people come out and show the elders how it's done!!

A new place to skate

Haliburton - Kawartha Lakes - Brock MPP Laurie Scott cuts the ribbon at the grand opening of the outdoor skating rink in Harcourt on Sunday, Feb. 5. The event featured skating with members of the Haliburton County Huskies, kids skating and hockey skills, and s'mores. /TIM YANO Special to *County Life*

The Haliburton County Huskies arrive to the grand opening of the Harcourt outdoor arena, ready to skate with the community,.

The Huskies play a game with community members on opening day of the Harcourt outdoor arena.

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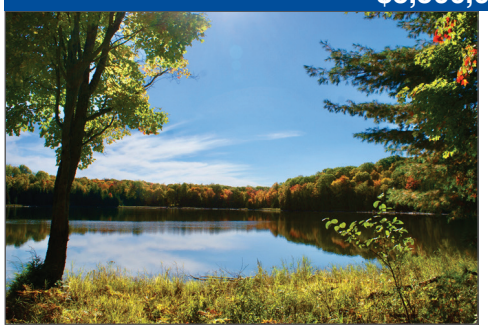

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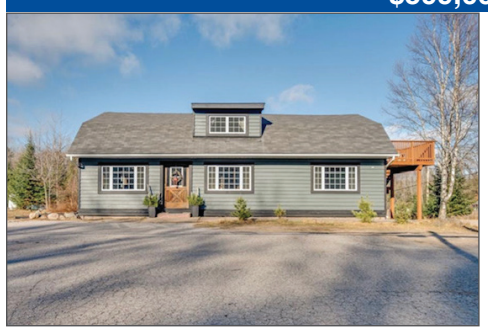

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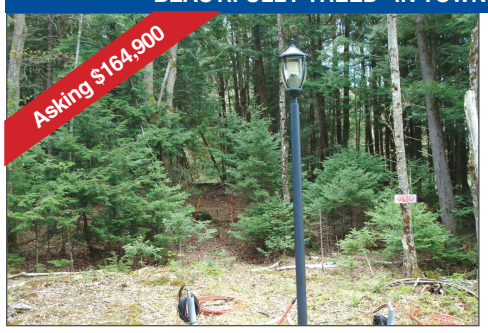

- Located on Lakeview Street (formerly North St)
- Quiet dead end street
- Underground hydro & street lanterns
- All new homes within last 10 yrs, most less than 5 yrs
- 127' on the road, 239' deep

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ESSON LAKE $749,900

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- Mostly updated some finishing to do
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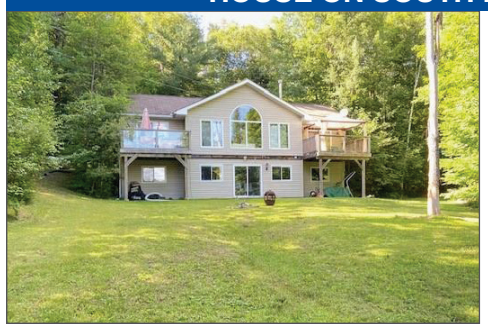

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- Unfinished basement with walkout to lake

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Spotlight on André Lapine exhibit at the AJG

JERELYN CRDEN
Special to *County Life*

Above, Lapine's style was simplified brush strokes, yet they stood out due to the great detail he included. At one point, he was known as the greatest horse illustrator in North America, due to his astute eye for detail. This image is titled *Grey Day on South Lake in Minden*. /Photo submitted

If you live in Minden, you have more than likely heard the name, André Lapine. You may have seen his paintings at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery (AJG) or the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa. You may be an admirer of his work and know his inspiring story. Then again, perhaps it's time for an introduction. After all, it is rare that a painter of Lapine's renown would have over 100 of his paintings become the permanent collection of a small public gallery in a small town like Minden. And, right now, you have the opportunity to see 35 specially selected paintings from the collection until the end of March.

Shannon Kelly, manager of Cultural Resources for the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, said, "The paintings in the Kirkwood Room reflect his work created in autumn. In galleries one and two are images of beautiful local subjects. And those in gallery four pay homage to his famous horses, for which he is highly revered."

Now, introducing André Lapine …

Born in Latvia in 1866, Lapine's innate talent and passion for painting earned him an early invitation to tour Europe's foremost galleries to further his studies. Bitten by the bug to learn, see, and do, he continued to paint and travel through Europe frequenting as many galleries as possible to see first-hand the artistry of the great masters and impressionists of the day.

He was an insatiable student. Becoming a great painter meant everything to him. Especially earning a living as an artist. But, after studying at the Royal Academy of Amsterdam, where he became a member of the St. Lucas Art Society, and marrying at the age of 31, reality hit: How would he be able to take care of his wife, Collumbierna Geertruida Brill?

Opportunity knocked. Lapine and his wife immigrated to Manitoba, upon accepting the Canadian government's offer of land to farm. But, as American poet, Gertrude Stein, wrote: A rose is a rose is a rose … so was being an artist for André Lapine.

"He didn't last long as a farmer," Jim Blake, curator at the Haliburton Sculpture Forest said. "Less than two years and he ended up in Toronto. And, like so many artists in Canada, he worked for a graphic arts firm that did all the work for Simpson's and Eaton's. Most of the Group of Seven worked for Grip, a competing design firm that was home to many of Canada's premier designers and painters during the first half of the 20th century."

An exceptional artist, Lapine had the ability to capture an image with simple, strong strokes, indicating a skilled artist who had mastered the basic techniques of drawing. His attention to detail and perfection established him as the best illustrator of horses in North America. Among his paintings of horses at the current AJG exhibit are: *Collecting the sap* and *Horses pulling sled*.

His work was frequently seen on the covers of the *Toronto Star Weekly* and in colour sections within the publication. Many of his paintings were selected and purchased by the National Gallery of Canada and the Art Gallery of Ontario.

Life was but a dream. He owned a custom-built stately home on Old Mill Road and had a studio in downtown Toronto. He was earning a fine living as an artist. His home life was happy. He was admired by his peers for both his work and his quiet charm. He became a member of the Ontario Society of Artists and the Graphic Arts Club, the Toronto Arts and Letters Club and a founding member of the Canadian Society of Painters in Water Colour. Lapine was also elected to the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts.

Then tragedy struck.

One day as he was crossing the street, Lapine was hit by a car. His injuries were severe and it appeared unlikely that he would survive. His medical bills were mounting and the situation was grim. This was 35 years before OHIP.

Rallying to his aid, a number of well-known artists in the Canadian and Ontario art scene auctioned their art to raise money for his medical bills. Among them: F.S. Challener, A.Y. Jackson, Franz Johnston, Arthur Lismer and Lawren Harris. Over 50 artists' paintings were contributed and over $7,000 was raised – more than enough to pay for the medical bills.

Then, when Lapine's wife was ailing and he was recovering from his injuries, they left Toronto for the natural beauty and tranquility of Minden where they stayed at Billy Hamilton's farm on South Lake. There, among many others, he painted, *Grey day South Lake, Minden*.

An admirer of this painting, Blake said upon seeing it at the current AJG exhibit, "It is so interesting in terms of the design. It has this incredible grey palette and looks very much like a David Milne painting or Clarence Daniel who were his contemporaries."

Blake recalled a story told to him by international Canadian sculptor George Pratt, who grew up on a farm in Minden. "When he was a four-year-old kid," Blake said, "Pratt was walking down the laneway and saw this man standing at the side of the road in front of an easel creating a painting. He was astounded that somebody could actually start with a blank canvas and create a scene. That's when Pratt told me, 'That is what inspired me.' Of course, that person was André Lapine."

After Lapine's wife died, Jack Welch, Reeve of Minden for many years and hobby painter, befriended him and offered Lapine room and board in exchange for paintings. Welch's close friend, local doctor, Agnes Jamieson (the first woman coroner in Ontario), also a hobby painter, became an ardent fan of Lapine's work. The three kindred spirits enjoyed a friendship that lasted until Lapine's final days.

Over the years, Welch had accumulated over 45 paintings which he bequeathed to the municipal government on the condition that the town keep them in a suitable location.

Dr. Jamieson dedicated herself to ensuring that the Lapine collection remain in Minden and the community would have a public gallery where the paintings would be stored and displayed.

Buried beside his beloved, Collumbierna, in the Minden cemetery, André Lapine's legacy lives on.

A true tale, one with a happy ending – the enrichment of arts and culture with a spotlight on the André Lapine exhibit currently on view right here in Minden.

André Lapine lived from 1866 until 1952, and was an avid painter in the Minden area. The Minden Hills Cultural Centre's Agnes Jamieson Gallery houses the largest collection of Lapine paintings in the world.

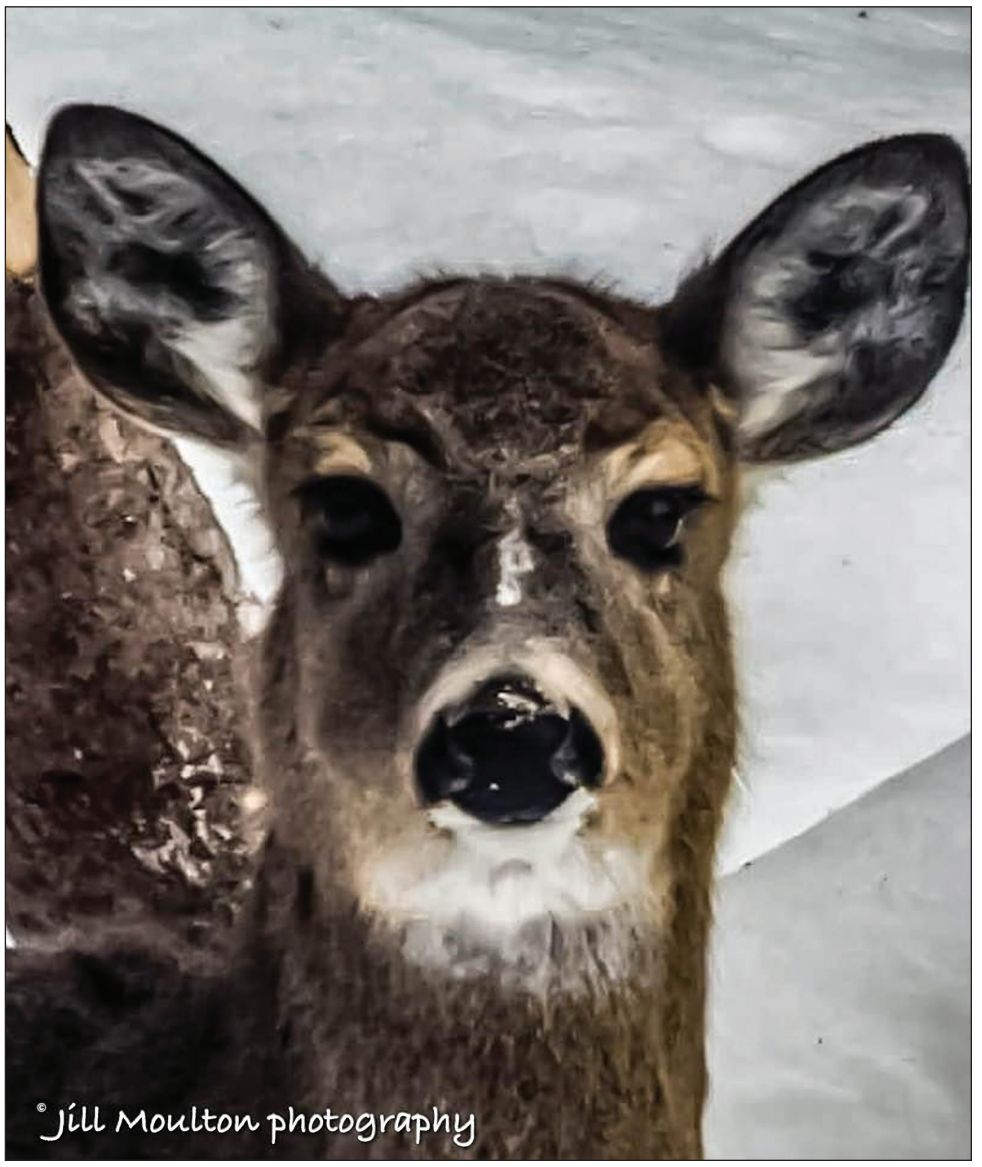
Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email vivian@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

A raven lifts its head after rummaging through snow. /Submitted by Tammy Nash

A winter kiss. /Submitted by Jill Moulton

A pine marten climbs a tree. /Submitted by Tammy Nash



A fluffy winter face stays alert. /Submitted by Jill Moulton

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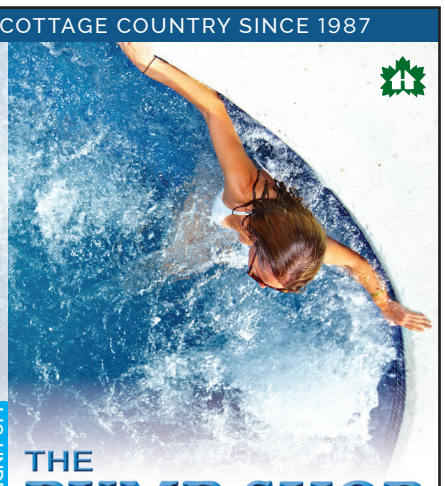

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County Life
THE ECHO HALIBURTON COUNTY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

THIS WEEK
BUILDING THE ECONOMY
Contractors believe better times will be ahead... page 3

THIS WEEK
Airport Arson
Stanhope cleans up after someone tries to set fire to airport... pg 4

THIS WEEK
A MIRACLE
Two cousins discover each other thanks to an old photograph... pg 5

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Municipalities face up to 21% reduction in provincial grants

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

The numbers are in, and although the provincial funding cuts to municipalities aren't as bad as once feared, local governments will have to scramble to cope with the loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenue.

All municipalities started the new year with a letter from the provincial government outlining its reduction in funding. The numbers vary widely, from 10% in Monmouth to 21% in Anson, Hindon and Minden based on a perplexing accounting formula.

Adding to the problems created by the shortfall is the government's announcement it will not begin forwarding its grant money until June. Traditionally, municipalities started receiving transfer payments in March or April. The later date will probably result in cash flow difficulties.

Most municipalities are responding by hitting the books, going line by line through their operating budgets to see where money can be saved.

There seems to be no overall trend in the cuts. Some of the smaller municipalities were insulated from drastic reductions; some were hit as hard as the county's larger municipalities.

However, it should be remembered that provincial funding accounts for roughly 20% of a municipality's income. "Any loss of funding is serious but I don't think (the announcements) are quite as dramatic as they first appeared," says Stanhope Reeve Jock Mavor. While committed to not increasing taxes, he notes the cuts to his municipality represent 4% of the overall budget, or $30 on a $600 tax bill.

Here's a brief look at what each municipality will have to do without in the next fiscal year:

Minden: a 21% reduction, or $93,000 (includes unconditional grants and roads)
Bicroft: 21% or $18,200
Cardiff: 19% or $32,000
Dysart et al: 17% or $142,000
Glamorgan: 18% or $26,100
Lutterworth: 18% or $28,400
Monmouth: 10.3% or $17,550
Sherborne et al: 12% or $17,200
Snowdon: 11% or $11,000
Stanhope: 18% or $40,300

It is also important to remember supplementary roads funding is drying up. Small municipalities especially have been dependent on this funding to buy equipment, which costs tens of thousands of dollars. As clerk Roger Hogan of Cardiff says, "the Ministry of Transportation

See POLITICIANS page 6

THE JOYS OF WINTER: While her mother and other women "on the hill" overlooking Haliburton hammered signs in trees welcoming home Bonnie Amson, who returned on Friday from a year in Australia, Siobhan Creelman took advantage of the snow to toboggan down the hill behind her house.

Construction slows down across the county – with a few exceptions

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

Construction workers – go east! That seems to be one of the few places in the county where there was in increase in construction last year.

In 1995, there was a general decrease in the number of building permits issued by the 10 municipalities, as well as a decrease in the value of the construction. One exception is Cardiff, where they enjoyed an increase in the construction of new dwellings.

Stanhope also witnessed a small increase, thanks to people adding onto their existing dwellings. But unlike Cardiff, the number of new dwellings in Stanhope decreased.

"I was amazed," says Cardiff's chief building official, Dale Shannick, of the increase in permits. In 1994, he issued 76 permits, including eight new dwellings. In 1995, 12 new dwellings were built and most were valued at more than $100,000.

In Stanhope, a big jump in the number of additions and renovations accounted for the small surge in statistics. There were 45 additions in 1995 compared to 36 in 1994 and double the number (six) of renovations. The number of new cottages remained constant at seven, but the number of dwellings dropped from nine to four.

There wasn't a major drop in construction values in Anson, Hindon and Minden, even though the number of new homes and cottages dropped by almost a third. In 1994, there were 16 new cottages with a total value of $780,000. Last year, there were only 11 new cottages, but they were much more expensive ones, with a total value of $890,000.

Likewise, the new homes seem to be worth more. The total value for the 15 new homes built in 1994 was $1.1-million. Only 11 homes were built in 1995, but their combined value was $940,000.

Most of the other numbers stayed the same.

"People are definitely watching their pennies," says AHM building inspector Doug Schell. Instead of building a new place, people are fixing up their existing one.

Schell and Ernie Hills of Snowdon noticed an increase in the number of pre-fabricated homes, which are less expensive for the consumer but provide few local jobs.

"We really flipped back to the 1993 levels," Hills says. "There

See FEW page 2

More user fees likely at Stanhope airport

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

While it's never pleasant to trim $10,000 from your annual spending habits, the Stanhope municipal airport will find the task relatively easy compared to next year's challenge of cutting a further $10,000.

The provincial government previously helped "top up" the airport's operating deficit to a maximum of $20,000 a year. This year, that amount will be reduced by half, and totally eliminated in 1997.

Where's the $20,000 to come from?

Airport manager Mike Carey says the airport, which already runs on a lean budget, especially when compared to other airports, began cutting costs three years ago in preparation for a reduction of funds. That process will be accelerated. As well, the airport plans to increase its revenue from outside sources.

"It's unfortunate this is happening but we'll be okay," he says. "We've been bringing in more revenue and not spending as much every year for the past three years... We'll be in good shape compared to other airports (which have relied more heavily on provincial funds)."

The airport is looking at charging a fee for any revenue-generating flight. There might also be other types of user fees.

"The pilots are very helpful

See STANHOPE page 4

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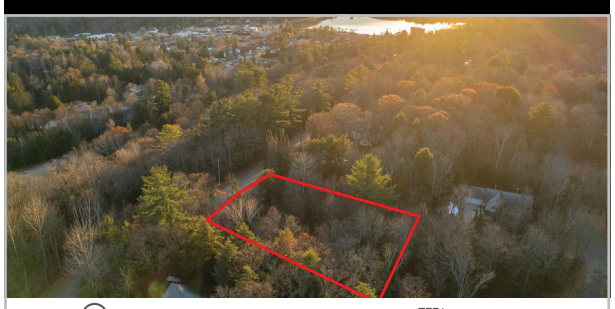

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